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General Comment

[Edited by Gilbert Campbell Scoggin, of the University of Missouri.]

On June 16 the *Philoctetes* of Sophocles was presented in English at Amherst College. The translation was made by Professor Smith and there were included several choral songs composed by Amherst men.

At the meeting of the College Art Association in Philadelphia during the Easter vacation Professor John Pickard of the department of Classical archaeology in the University of Missouri was again elected president.

Professor George Henry Chase has been appointed to the newly established John E. Hudson professorship in archaeology at Harvard. Professor Chase is well known to the readers of the *Classical Journal* by reason of his articles summarizing the work done in the field of classical archaeology from year to year.

Joseph Salathiel Tunison died on April 21 at East Liverpool, Ohio. He was educated at Denison University and early entered the field of journalism. He was known to classical scholars through his book *Master Virgil*, which first appeared in 1888. A very sympathetic notice of his life of devotion to scholarship may be found in the *Nation* for June 15.

George St. John Perrott, long professor of Latin at the University of North Dakota, died on May 30. Professor Perrott was born at Stratford-on-Avon, in England, and received his early education at the famous old grammar school there. Thence he passed on to Oxford and in due course took the Master's degree. He came to America about thirty years ago.

Charles George Herbermann died in New York City on August 24. He was editor-in-chief of the *Catholic Encyclopaedia* and prominent in the Catholic world. Born in Germany, he came early to this country, and here he was educated. A few years after his graduation at St. Francis Xavier College, he became an instructor there. Later he became professor of the Latin language and literature at the College of the City of New York. In 1874 he became librarian of the College but resigned in 1905. He was well known as editor of the *Catiline* and of the *Jugurthine War* of Sallust and was the author of *Business Life in Ancient Rome*.

From the British Isles has recently come the announcement of the death of two distinguished classical scholars, William Ross Hardie and James Leigh Strachan-Davidson. Hardie after graduating from Oxford became Fellow and Tutor of Balliol College, and, in 1895, when thirty-three years old, he was elected professor of humanity at the University of Edinburgh. He will be remembered for his *Lectures on Classical Subjects*, published by Macmillan in 1903. Strachan-Davidson was Master of Balliol College, and, like Hardie, had been Fellow and Tutor there. He was distinguished for his studies in Roman criminal law and was author and editor of many works, including *Selections from Polybius*, the first book of *Appian*, and *Problems of the Roman Criminal Law*.

The death has been announced of Professor Paul Wendland of the University of Göttingen. He studied at the Sophiengymnasien in Berlin where he came under the instruction of Oskar Seyffert of *Classical Dictionary* fame, and there his interest in classical philology was aroused. In 1882 he entered the University of Berlin and there studied under Kirschhof and Vahlen. Then after a brief sojourn at Bonn, where he attended the lectures of Michaelis, he returned to Berlin and took his degree. His first university appointment was at Kiel. Later he went to Breslau and in 1909 went to Göttingen, where he died on September 10, 1915. He was particularly interested in Philo Judaeus, and in conjunction with Dr. Leopold Cohn he has given us the latest critical edition of the works of that writer (Berlin, 1896-1902).

At the third meeting of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies, held February 26, 1915, Professor Charles Knapp of Columbia University discussed "Liberal Studies in Ancient Rome." Many interesting parallels are drawn between the ancient Romans and the modern Americans, especially in their attitude toward liberal studies. To a Roman who was ambitious for making his way in the world, literature could be merely an avocation. Cicero recognized this attitude of his countrymen and made open apologies for his own studies in philosophy. Cicero's success, however, was largely due to his own pursuit of liberal studies. Although the Romans long were hostile toward such studies, yet, as it is pointed out, their greatest achievements were long due to these very studies. This address in full may be found in the *Educational Review* for March, 1916.

In the *Educational Review* for April, 1916, under the title "The Genius of Ancient Greece and Its Influence on the Modern World," there is an interesting description of the Oxford summer meeting of 1915. Many familiar names will be found among the lecturers there enumerated. Dr. Mahaffy lectured on the "Expansion of Greek History"; Dr. Macan spoke on "Aspects of and Epochs

of Greek History"; Mr. Marriott spoke on "The Commonwealth and the Citizen"; Professor Gilbert Murray lectured on "Greek Tragedy"; Dr. Wicksteed discussed "The Religious Significance of the Greek Tragedians"; Mr. Livingstone lectured on "Oratory and Greek Prose Style"; Professor Percy Gardner discussed several topics, including "Greek Coins"; Dr. Farnell lectured on the "Greek Mysteries and on Apollo Worship." Only two Americans seem to have been in attendance at this Oxford summer meeting.

Professor Hugo Blümner, of Zürich, writes on *Die Darstellung des Sterbens in der griechischen Kunst* in the *Neue Jahrbücher* for February, 1916. He treats of the representation of death on the monuments through a period of six centuries, but he points out that full material for such a study is not at hand. There are breaks in tradition as preserved for us. However, certain general characteristics emerge from time to time. The fifth and fourth centuries were averse to depicting death struggles and tried to tone down such scenes. The Hellenistic age delighted in portraying in detail the sufferings and agony of a dying man. Violent death is depicted; never mild, easy death such as might come through sickness or natural dissolution. Gentle death such as is found depicted on Roman sarcophagi may have been found, however, on Greek fore-runners now lost. Greek art seldom portrays death other than that suffered in battle. Thirty-three fine illustrations from the monuments accompany the text.

The Harvard University library has recently received by bequest the fine collection of editions of Horace brought together by the late W. C. Williamson of the class of 1852. These books, many in fine bindings, range in date from 1501 to 1900, no incunabula being included. The earliest of these is a copy of the Aldine edition, which is now of great rarity. There is also a copy of the Elzevir edition of 1676, the rarest of the Elzevir editions of Horace. Pickering is represented by a copy of his diamond-type edition, the smallest Horace ever printed. Included is also a copy of Baskerville's quarto of 1770, the rarest of Baskerville's beautiful editions of the classics. Naturally there is a copy of Pine's famous engraved edition, which was published in 1733. It was a copy of this last that inspired Eugene Field to compose his amusing verses beginning: "When I was broke in London in the fall of eighty-nine." This notable collection of more than one hundred volumes may fitly take its place beside the excellent Persius collection brought together and presented to the college library by Professor Morgan.

In the January number of the *Baylor Bulletin*, Dr. J. W. Downer has issued "A Plea for Latin." Various arguments are offered in defense of the study of Latin. It is an aid to the mastery of English because an accurate knowledge of Latin grammar gives mastery of English grammar. It leads

to a knowledge of the derivation of English words, develops the powers of expression and of the language sense. It is an aid to mental development. These are emphasized as the chief reasons for the study of Latin. Perhaps few will agree with Dr. Downer that even in college "the main reason for the study of Latin is not for literature, though there is much charming and helpful literature there." In the same way the historical value of Latin is unduly obscured. But he has some sensible remarks about the common chatter about research. The value of Latin for the professions and the sciences is noted. He answers many objections to the study of Latin and shows that the deficiencies of college Freshmen are in large measure due to the widely extended prejudice against Latin in their homes. The shortcomings of teachers also are rightly pointed out and remedies suggested.

The fact that our schools and colleges are filled with students who can never have high intellectual interests,

such as for their bellies' sake
Creep, and intrude, and climb into the fold,

should not blind one to the fact that things intellectual must always make appeal to the intellectual, and the classics will ever have fit audience though few. College barriers are now down and even he who does not read may run to college, and our classrooms are filled with herds and hordes. A real danger lies in the fact that we may be inclined to accept the loudly proclaimed doctrines of "the new education" as a final verdict, whereas we should stand up and defend the right. In this conflict there can be no neutrality. False and ignorant statements should not be allowed to go unchallenged. The torch of humanism has been transmitted to us through many succeeding generations. It has at times burned low even to the point of flickering, but there have always heretofore been courageous champions to guard the sacred flame and in no former age has it been allowed to be extinguished.

At the meeting of the Classical Association in Chicago last April a healthy tone of optimism prevailed throughout. Some years ago I attended a meeting of the same organization, hoping to derive inspiration and encouragement from contact with many others who were engaged in one great common cause. Most of the papers and discussions, however, took the form of lamentations about the present widespread unpopularity of classical study, and I returned home so despondent that it was five years before I had the heart to attend another meeting. Now my own reading in the history of classical studies had led me to see long since that the oft-regretted golden age in which Latin and Greek were eagerly sought by the schoolboy and to the end enthusiastically

pursued was a myth. So far as I am aware, there was never a time when classical studies were popular. Greek in particular has always been forced to intrench its position. When one considers the growth of popular education with its demands, its just demands, for practical things, the mere fact that today in every college community classical studies through their representatives have such influence, for me is proof enough, if external proof were required, that the classics have a lasting value that cannot be obscured. I have long been convinced of the vitality of classical studies and am of opinion that never before have such studies been more successfully pursued than at the present day. The position of Greek has always been a reliable index to the true condition of classical studies and no preceding generation can marshal a larger number of first-rate Greek scholars than can our own. "Sed de vivis nil ne bonum quidem."

Timely stories from the entire field of art, ancient and modern, profusely illustrated with full-page typo-gravures, combine to give the May number of *Art and Archaeology* the widest appeal to all lovers of the beautiful.

Of particular interest and value is the third of Dr. Edgar J. Banks's series on the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World." The third "Wonder" is "The Statue of the Olympian Zeus." The first of the series of two articles on "The Sculptor Myron in the Light of Recent Discoveries" by George H. Chase is with eight illustrations, this number considering the "Discus-Thrower" (discobolus). Professor W. H. Holmes has an illuminating article entitled "The Oldest Dated American Monument" (A Nephrite Figurine from Mexico). A second article by Professor Holmes considers some "Guatemalan Pottery," which he gives as "Examples of Spurious Antiquities." Dan Fellows Platt gives us the seventh of his "Lesser Known Masterpieces of Italian Painting," considering in this number the famous "Kneeling Angel" of Bernardino Luini. Mrs. George Julian Zolnay ("Rowan Douglas") writes suggestively about the Zolnay frieze in the Central High School, Washington. John Pickard records the "Fifth Annual Meeting of the College Art Association of America." A finely illustrated article by Clarence Stratton, the feature of the issue, considers "Greek Influence on the Stage." There is also a striking poem, "Hermes," by Juanita Tramana.

"Current Notes and News" deals with an "Exhibition of American Institute of Graphic Arts," "A Note of Irish Coinage," "The Jumel Mansion in New York," "A Coptic Wall Painting," "Representation of Death in Greek Art," "Excavations in the Southwest," "Joseph E. Widener Buys the Mazarin Tapestry," and "Art and Archaeology Week of the Chautauqua [N.Y.] Assembly."